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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-07 EB-10
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /073 W
063375 061817Z /42

O R 061755Z NOV 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5705
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 8205

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/6/86 (HAVERKAMP, R.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: DUDLEY THOMPSON LOSES THE ELECTION

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON NOVEMBER 5 EMBOFFS WERE INFORMED BY TWO VERY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT THE FINAL COUNT OF THE BALLOTS FROM THE WESTERN ST. ANDREW CONSTITUENCY SHOWS PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY CANDIDATE DUDLEY THOMPSON LOSING TO THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY'S OWEN STEPHENSON BY 310 VOTES. THOMPSON, FORMER MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY, WAS QUOTED ON THE RADIO AS SAYING THAT TWELVE BALLOT BOXES ARRIVED UNSEALED AT THE COUNTING STATIONS AND THAT 900 VOTES WERE UNACCOUNTED FOR. A SENIOR JDF OFFICER TOLD EMBOFF NOVERMBER 5 THAT PNP GUNMEN INVADED SEVERAL POLLING STATIONS AND ADDED VOTES FOR THOMPSON. THEY NEGLECTED, HOWEVER, TO FAKE THE INITIALS OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS AND THESE BALLOTS WERE DISALLOWED IN THE COUNT.

3. THOMPSON HAS THE OPTION TO CHALLENGE THE ELECTION RESULTS IN THE COURTS, A TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS. [redacted] STEPHENSON MIGHT NOT BE SWORN IN, THEREBY FORCING AN EARLY BY-ELECTION UNDER RIGOROUS OBSERVATION. SUCH AN ELECTION WOULD OBVIATE THE NEED FOR A LONG COURT CHALLENGE AND WOULD REMOVE ANY DOUBT AS TO THE VICTOR.

4. COMMENT. THE NEWS OF THOMPSON'S DEFEAT DOES NOT SURPRISE MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS HERE. THOMPSON HAD NEVER BEFORE WON A CONTESTED ELECTION, AND MANY FOUND IT CURIOUS THAT HE SHOULD WIN THIS YEAR IN THE FACE OF THE MASSIVE SWING TO THE JLP. THE JLP HAS NOW TAKEN 52 OF THE 60 SEATS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE MORE (PNP HORACE CLARKE VC JL PWALTER BRADY, WEST CENTRAL ST. MARY) GOING TO THE JLP IN THE FINAL COUNT.
LAWRENCE

EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 25 JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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